

Senate File 431 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 431
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1234)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to required core curriculum and twenty-first
2 century learning skills addressed in rules adopted by the
3 state board of education.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph a,
2 subparagraph (3), Code 2015, is amended to read as follows:

3 (3) The rules establishing a core curriculum shall address
4 the core content standards in subsection 28 and the skills and
5 knowledge students need to be successful in the twenty-first
6 century and shall address the curricular needs of students
7 in kindergarten through grade twelve in those areas. The
8 core curriculum shall include ~~social studies and twenty-first~~
9 century learning skills which shall include but are not limited
10 to the following:

11 (a) Social studies, civic literacy, health literacy,
12 technology literacy, financial literacy, and employability
13 skills; and shall address the curricular needs of students in
14 kindergarten through grade twelve in those areas. ~~The state~~
15 ~~board shall further define the twenty-first century learning~~
16 ~~skills components by rule.~~

17 (b) Music, visual art, drama and theater, and other fine
18 and applied arts. The department shall employ a consultant
19 to oversee the development of and compliance with the fine
20 arts core curriculum and to provide guidance for professional
21 development programs, strategies, and materials based on the
22 rules adopted by the state board pursuant to this subparagraph
23 division. This subparagraph division shall not be construed
24 to conflict with the provisions of section 256.11, subsection
25 3, 4, or 5, with regard to areas that are required to be
26 taught. The selection and administration of assessments of
27 music, visual art, drama and theater, or other fine arts
28 courses shall be determined locally by the school district or
29 accredited nonpublic school providing the educational program
30 in accordance with section 256.11. However, the department
31 may provide model assessments aligned with fine arts content
32 standards established by the state board.

33 Sec. 2. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance with
34 Code section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring
35 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall

1 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid
2 received by the school district under Code section 257.16.
3 This specification of the payment of the state cost shall be
4 deemed to meet all of the state funding-related requirements
5 of Code section 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state
6 funding shall be necessary for the full implementation of this
7 Act by and enforcement of this Act against all affected school
8 districts.

9 EXPLANATION

10 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
11 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

12 This bill modifies the required core curriculum and
13 twenty-first century learning skills and knowledge that the
14 state board of education is required to address in rule.

15 Currently, the required core curriculum includes English
16 or language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.
17 The core curriculum must also include twenty-first century
18 learning skills, including but not limited to civic literacy,
19 health literacy, technology literacy, financial literacy, and
20 employability skills. The bill requires that the twenty-first
21 century learning skills also include music, visual art, drama
22 and theater, and other fine and applied arts.

23 The educational standards established under Code section
24 256.11 require accredited schools to include in grades 1-8
25 courses in music and visual art, and in grades 9-12, three
26 units in the fine arts which shall include at least two of
27 the following: dance, music, theater, and visual art. The
28 bill provides that nothing in the new provision expanding the
29 twenty-first century skills to include music, visual art,
30 drama and theater, and other fine and applied arts shall be
31 construed to conflict with the courses required under the
32 educational standards. Further, assessments for such courses
33 shall be locally determined, though the department of education
34 may provide model assessments aligned with fine arts content
35 standards established by the state board of education.

1 The bill also requires the department to employ a consultant
2 to oversee the development of and compliance with the fine
3 arts core curriculum and to provide guidance for professional
4 development programs, strategies, and materials based on
5 the rules relating to the fine arts core curriculum and the
6 twenty-first century fine arts learning skills adopted by the
7 state board.

8 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code
9 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of
10 any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school
11 district from state school foundation aid received by the
12 school district under Code section 257.16. The specification
13 is deemed to constitute state compliance with any state mandate
14 funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The
15 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the
16 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state
17 mandates included in the bill.